Remarks/Arguments

Claims 1-43 are pending in the application.

The Office has rejected claims 1-9, 17-31, 34-35 and 38-41 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,544,359 to Tada et al. (hereinafter "Tada") in view of U.S. Patent 6,321,234 to Debrunner. In addition, the Office has rejected claims 10-16 and 42-43 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tada in view of Jim Gray & Andreas Reuter, "Transaction Processing: Concepts and Techniques" (Morgan Kaufmann, 1993) (hereinafter "Gray"). Finally the Office has rejected claims 32-33 and 36-37 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tada in view of Debrunner and further in view of Gray. In light of the arguments below, Applicant asks the Office to reconsider these rejections and to allow all of the claims.

The 103(a) Rejections over Tada in view of Debrunner

The Office admits that Tada does not teach or suggest flushing a transaction log *from volatile storage to non-volatile storage* before any directive indicating commencement of an end transaction procedure is broadcast to a plurality of access modules, as required by Applicant's claims 1, 17, 21, 24 and 28. In order to remedy this deficiency of Tada, the Office cites col. 9, lines 20-26 of Debrunner which state "In instances where a page can be concurrently updated without a transactional lock (e.g., OAM (Object Allocation Map) pages in Sybase SQL Server), the PLC containing log record(s) describing a change to such a page are flushed before the end of the transaction. In either instance, the approach of the present invention greatly reduces contention for the log semaphore." However, Applicant would like to respectfully point out that the above described log flush of Debrunner is "from the private log cache [PLC] of a task to the log page chain" (*see, e.g.,* Debrunner, col. 9, lines 27-33). As such, the recited portions of Debrunner teach flushing a log from volatile storage ("PLC") to volatile storage ("log page chain") and not from volatile storage to non-volatile storage as required by Applicant's claims 1, 17, 21, 24 and 28.

10

Further, while the cited portion of Debrunner does teach a flush (albeit from volatile storage to volatile storage) "before the end of the transaction," Applicant is unaware of any portion of Debrunner teaching or suggesting a directive indicating commencement of an end transaction procedure broadcast to a plurality of access modules, let alone performing a transaction log flush from volatile to non-volatile storage before any such directive is broadcast as is also required by Applicant's claims 1, 17, 21, 24 and 28. Therefore, the combination of Tada and Debrunner fail to teach or suggest all of the limitations of Applicant's claims 1, 17, 21, 24 and 28. As a result, Applicant's claims 1, 17, 21, 24 and 28, and their dependents, are patentable over Tada and Debrunner under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).
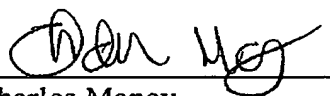
The 103(a) Rejections over Tada in view of Gray

With regard to claim 10, the Office admits that Tada does not teach a "first access module sending an end transaction directive to a fallback access module associated with the first access module," the fallback access module being part of a cluster of access modules including the first access module, as required by Applicant. The Office cites pages 34, 61-62, 562-576 and 943 of Gray to remedy the deficiencies of Tada. However, as noted in a prior Office action reply, the cited portions of Gray teach general transaction processing and management techniques. While disparate portions of Gray may individually disclose "replicated" data (*see, e.g.,* Gray, pg. 34), processor "clusters" (*see, e.g.,* Gray, pg. 61), and a "log record" (*see, e.g.,* Gray, pg. 502) Applicant is unaware of, and the Office has not pointed out, any sections of Gray that teach a first access module sending an end transaction directive to a fallback access module associated with the first access module, as required by Applicant's claim 10. As such, neither Tada nor Gray, taken alone or in combination, teaches or suggests all of the limitations of Applicant's claim 10. The result is that claim 10 and its dependents are patentable over Tada in view of Gray under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

11

Conclusions

In light of the foregoing, Applicant asks the Office to reconsider this application and to allow all of the claims. Please apply any charges that might be due, excepting the issue fee but including fees for extensions of time, to deposit account 14-0225.

Respectfully,

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12